

Message Text

PAGE 01 NATO 06898 172155Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 INR-07 L-03 ACDA-07
NSAE-00 PA-01 SS-15 PRS-01 SP-02 USIA-06 TRSE-00
SAJ-01 DODE-00 MC-02 NSC-05 /067 W
----- 049921 /12

R 171530Z DEC 76
FM USMISSION NATO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 856
INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L USNATO 6898

EO11652 GDS
TAGS NATO PARM FR
SUBJECT FRANCE-NATO: RECENT ISSUES

REF (A) PARIS 37001, (B) PARIS 36911, (C) STATE 302693,
(D) USNATO 6727, (E) USNATO 6535, (F) STATE 285597,
(G) USNATO 4704, (H) USNATO 4138

SUMMARY: ON THE RECENT EVIDENCE, WE NEED TO CONTINUE TO DEAL
DEXTEROUSLY WITH FRANCE ON ALLIANCE ISSUES IN THE PERIOD AHEAD,
FOR THE FRENCH SEEM INCLINED TO PRUNE NATO ACTIVITIES THEY FIND
CURRENTLY DISTASTEFUL. THIS COULD RESULT, WHETHER IT IS THE
FRENCH AIR OR NOT, IN DILUTING THE ABILITY OF THE OTHER ALLIES
TO WORK TOGETHER EFFECTIVELY ON ISSUES OF SHARED CONCERN
IN THE NATO FRAMEWORK. WE SUGGEST NO RADICAL ACTION OR
INITIATIVE, BUT RATHER A CONTINUATION OF THE PRESENT
CAREFUL US POLICY OF DEALING PATIENTLY BUT PURPOSEFULLY WITH
THE FRENCH IN ORDER TO MAINTAIN MOMENTUM IN THE ALLIANCE.
ACTION REQUESTED: GUIDANCE. END SUMMARY.

1. IN RECENT DAYS, THE FRENCH HAVE (A) SOUGHT TO CHIP
AWAY AT NATO'S INFORMATION BUDGET, WITH A VIEW TO
RESTRAINING IT TO A MAXIMUM TO TEN PERCENT OF NATO'S
CIVIL BUDGET; (B) TRIED THROUGH THE CHAIRMAN OF THE
CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 NATO 06898 172155Z

POLITICAL COMMITTEE TO HAVE THAT BODY REJECT TASKS
ASSIGNED BY THE DPC, RATHER THAN THE NAC -- A SEEMINGLY
MINOR PROCEDURAL ISSUE, BUT ONE WHICH OPENS THE PROSPECT
OF A POSSIBLE FRENCH BLOCK ON THE DPC'S ABILITY TO TASK
THOSE NATO ORGANS IN WHICH FRANCE PARTICIPATES; (C) COM-
PLAINED ABOUT THE NATO SPECIAL COMMITTEE'S COVERAGE
OF COMMUNIST PARTY ACTIVITIES IN WESTERN EUROPEAN COUN-
TRIES; (D) COMPLAINED ABOUT SACLANT'S ARTICLE CONTAINED
IN A RECENT ISSUE OF "THE NATO REVIEW" (E) BLOCKED IN

THE EPC A MORE FORTHCOMING APPROACH TO A DIALOGUE IN NATO INCLUDING NON-EPG ALLIES; AND (F) DECIDED, APPARENTLY, TO OPPOSE DISCUSSION OF CONVENTIONAL ARMS TRANSFERS IN THE POLITICAL COMMITTEE.

2. OF THESE RECENT FRENCH ACTIONS, THE LAST IS UNDERSTANDABLE BECAUSE OF LONG-STANDING FRENCH CONCERNS ABOUT POSSIBLE REPERCUSSIONS IN THE THIRD WORLD FROM LEAKS ISSUING FROM NATO -- CONCERNS SIMILAR TO THOSE TRIGGERED BY SACLAN'T'S ARTICLE. BUT WE ARE STRUCK BY MISTRAL'S REMARK (REF A) THAT "AT THE MOMENT THE QUAI DOES NOT CONSIDER NATO, A MILITARY ALLIANCE, TO BE AN APPROPRIATE FORUM FOR WHAT IS ESSENTIALLY A DISARMAMENT ISSUE." APART FROM THE FACT THAT THE ALLIANCE HEADQUARTERS DEVOTES HUNDREDS OF ANNUAL HOURS TO THE CONSIDERATION OF ARMS CONTROL AND DISARMAMENT ISSUES, WE DO NOT BELIEVE THAT WE SHOULD LIGHTLY ALLOW THE FRENCH TO ASSERT A RIGHT TO DECIDE THOSE ARMS CONTROL AND DISARMAMENT ISSUES NATO SHOULD DEAL WITH AND THOSE IT SHOULD NOT. WE ARE CERTAIN THAT ALL OTHER ALLIES -- IF NOT FRANCE -- WOULD AGREE WITH US ON THIS POINT; FOR COGENT REASONS OF NATIONAL INTEREST THE ALLIES CONTINUALLY STRESS TO US THE IMPORTANCE THEY ATTACH TO CONSULTATIONS ON SALT AND OTHER US-SOVIET ARMS CONTROL EFFORTS, AND WOULD NOT WISH TO SEEM TO SUGGEST THE US COULD CHOOSE WHETHER TO CONSULT OR NOT.

3. THUS, WE WOULD URGE THAT THE DEPARTMENT AUTHORIZE
CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 NATO 06898 172155Z

(A) AN APPROACH IN DUE COURSE AT AN APPROPRIATELY HIGH LEVEL TO THE FRENCH, STRESSING OUR INTEREST IN CONSULTATIONS IN NATO ON ALL ARMS CONTROL AND DISARMAMENT MATTERS OF INTEREST TO THE ALLIES, NOTING OUR INTENTION TO PERSIST IN SEEKING TO INCLUDE CONVENTIONAL ARMS TRANSFERS ON THE POLADS AGENDA AND INDICATING THAT FRENCH CONCERNS ABOUT CONFIDENTIALITY COULD BE MET BY SHARPLY RESTRICTING ATTENDANCE AT THE MEETINGS; AND (B) CONTINUING IN NATO TO POINT TOWARD INCREASED POLADS DISCUSSION OF CONVENTIONAL ARMS TRANSFERS.

4. FINALLY, WE BELIEVE THERE IS A LESSON TO BE DRAWN FROM OUR DISCUSSIONS WITH THE FRENCH ABOUT A POLADS MEETING ON CONVENTIONAL ARMS TRANSFERS, AND THE LESSON IS THAT WE SHOULD PROCEED CAUTIOUSLY BEFORE ASKING THE FRENCH IN ADVANCE WHETHER THEY WOULD OBJECT TO A CONSULTATION ON A PARTICULAR TOPIC BEFORE WE PUT THE PROPOSAL TO ALL THE ALLIES. IF WE GO FIRST TO THE FRENCH, THEIR EXPRESSION OF PRIVATE RESERVATIONS MAY EVENTUALLY MAKE IT MUCH MORE DIFFICULT FOR US TO SCHEDULE CONSULTATIONS THAT WE DESIRE IN NATO. TO PUT IT ANOTHER WAY, BY SEEKING ADVANCE FRENCH CONCURRENCE WE WEAKEN THE POTENTIAL LEVERAGE DERIVING FROM MAJORITY ALLIED SUPPORT FOR A PROPOSITION THAT THE FRENCH MAY OPPOSE. WE RECALL, IN THIS CONNECTION, THAT AT THE JULY 20 POLADS MEETING,

THE FRENCH REP OBJECTED TO INCLUSION OF CONVENTIONAL ARMS TRANSFERS ON THE AGENDA FOR THE FALL DISARMAMENT EXPERTS MEETING, THAT WE SUPPORTED RETAINING THE ITEM, AND THAT IT REMAIND ON THE AGENDA (REFS G AND H).

5. A FINAL COMMENT: WE FEAR THAT THE FRENCH MAY HAVE REACHED THE CONCLUSION THAT THEY CAN SAFELY LAUNCH A CAMPAIGN OF SMALL STEPS DESIGNED TO ERODE, BIT BY BIT, NATO AS AN INSTITUTION, AND THAT THE COMBINED IMPACT OF THESE MOVES, EACH PESKY, MIGHT BE HIGHLY DELETERIOUS TO THE ALLIANCE IN THE LONG RUN. IT IS ALSO JUST CONCEIVABLE THAT THE FRENCH THEMSELVES ARE NOT FULLY CONSCIOUS OF THE ULTIMATE CONSEQUENCES OF EROSION WHICH COULD BE HARMFUL NOT
CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 04 NATO 06898 172155Z

ONLY TO NATO BUT TO FRANCE HERSELF. HOWEVER, WE MUST DEFER TO EMBASSY PARIS ON THE INTRICACIES OF FRENCH ELYSEE - QUAI D'ORSAY - MINISTRY OF DEFENSE RELATIONSHIPS. STRAUSSZ-HUPE

CONFIDENTIAL

<< END OF DOCUMENT >>

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 30 AUG 1999
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 17 DEC 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: BoyleJA
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976NATO06898
Document Source: ADS
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: n/a
Film Number: n/a
From: NATO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19761290/baaabaha.tel
Line Count: 131
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: BoyleJA
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 07 APR 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <07 APR 2004 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <02 AUG 2004 by BoyleJA>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: n/a
TAGS: n/a
To: STATE INFO PARIS
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006